

Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area Interagency Trail Management Plan EIS/EIR Project Restart / Public Scoping Wrap-up

February 20, 2014
King Gillette Ranch
6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

February 22, 2014
Temescal Gateway Park
10:00 p.m. - 12:00 p.m.

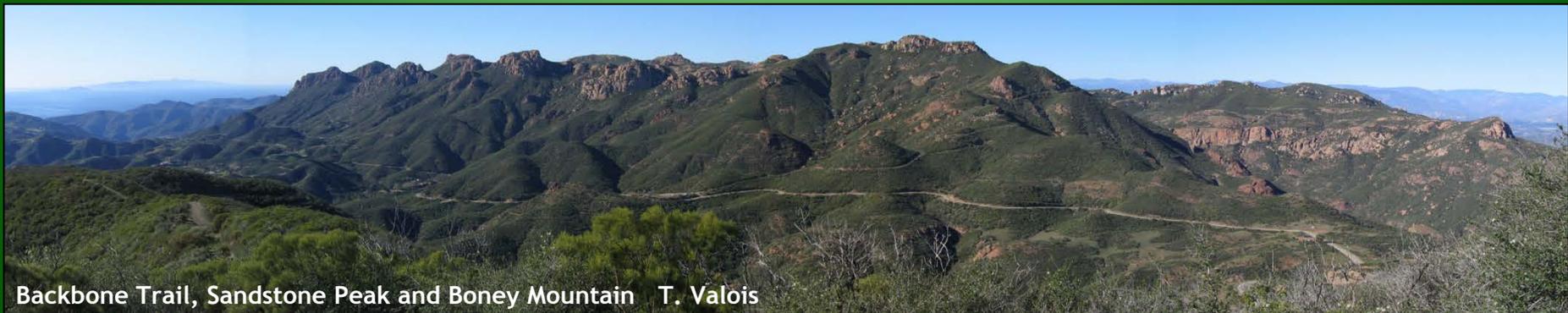


Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority

Working Toward a Common Vision

Denise Duffy & Associates, Inc.
Planning + Environmental Consulting

1. Background: Project Restart
2. 2005 Scoping Summary
3. Next Steps: Public Scoping Wrap-up and EIS/EIR Preparation



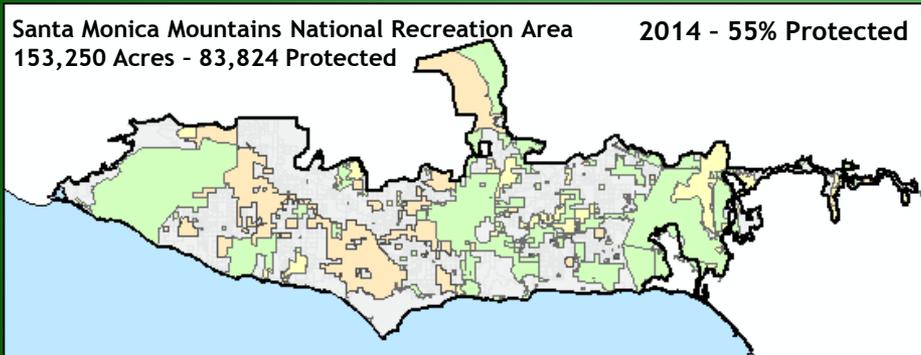
- A selection of recreational users that need trails -

1. Project Restart

THE PROJECT

Prepare a comprehensive trail management plan to protect park resources and provide a jurisdictionally seamless recreational experience.

TMP – Why?



Protected Parkland and Open Space

23,518	15%	NPS
51,097	33%	State Agency
9,209	6%	Local & Non-Profit/Private
83,824	55%	Protected

NEED

SMMNRA public parkland has expanded greatly since the first state park was established in 1951 (Leo Carrillo State Park). Today's trail routes have been inherited as much as newly constructed. Mountain biking was introduced.

The Backbone Trail System is nearly complete and needs a plan for facilities.

► A trail plan is needed to review the trail network that exists today and to create an interagency optimum for long-term development and management of trail-related recreation.

TMP – Why?



Trail Building - Malibou Lake Connector Trail
Peter Strauss Ranch

PURPOSE

Protect natural and cultural resources from the impacts of trails and trail use.

Establish a comprehensive plan for circulation, access, and trail use designation.

Provide a plan to construct new trails and to realign , reengineer, or remove existing trails.

Facilitate a safe, enjoyable, and jurisdictionally seamless recreational experience for a variety of trail users.

TMP – Where: EIS/EIR Study Area



Includes All Recreational Routes Inside SMMNRA

Includes Regional Trails, Critical Missing Links, And Neighborhood Connections Outside SMMNRA

Recreational Routes Addressed in TMP	843 miles
Current Public Network	515
Unofficial Trails & Roads	229
Proposed New Trails	99

TMP - What: Features Considered

Recreational Routes*

Possible Actions

Status

Keep, Realign, Reengineer, Construct New, Close

Use Designation

Evaluate and Assign Use Designation, Consider Alternative Management Strategies, Provide Adequate ADA Opportunities

Regional Trail Systems

5 Systems: Identify Alignments, Evaluate Feasibility

Recreational Facilities

Possible Actions

Backbone Trail Backcountry Camps

8 Backcountry Camps: Construct and Operate on Permit System

Trailheads

130 Trailheads: Improve Access, Upgrade Facilities at Existing Trailheads along Backbone Trail and Other Locations

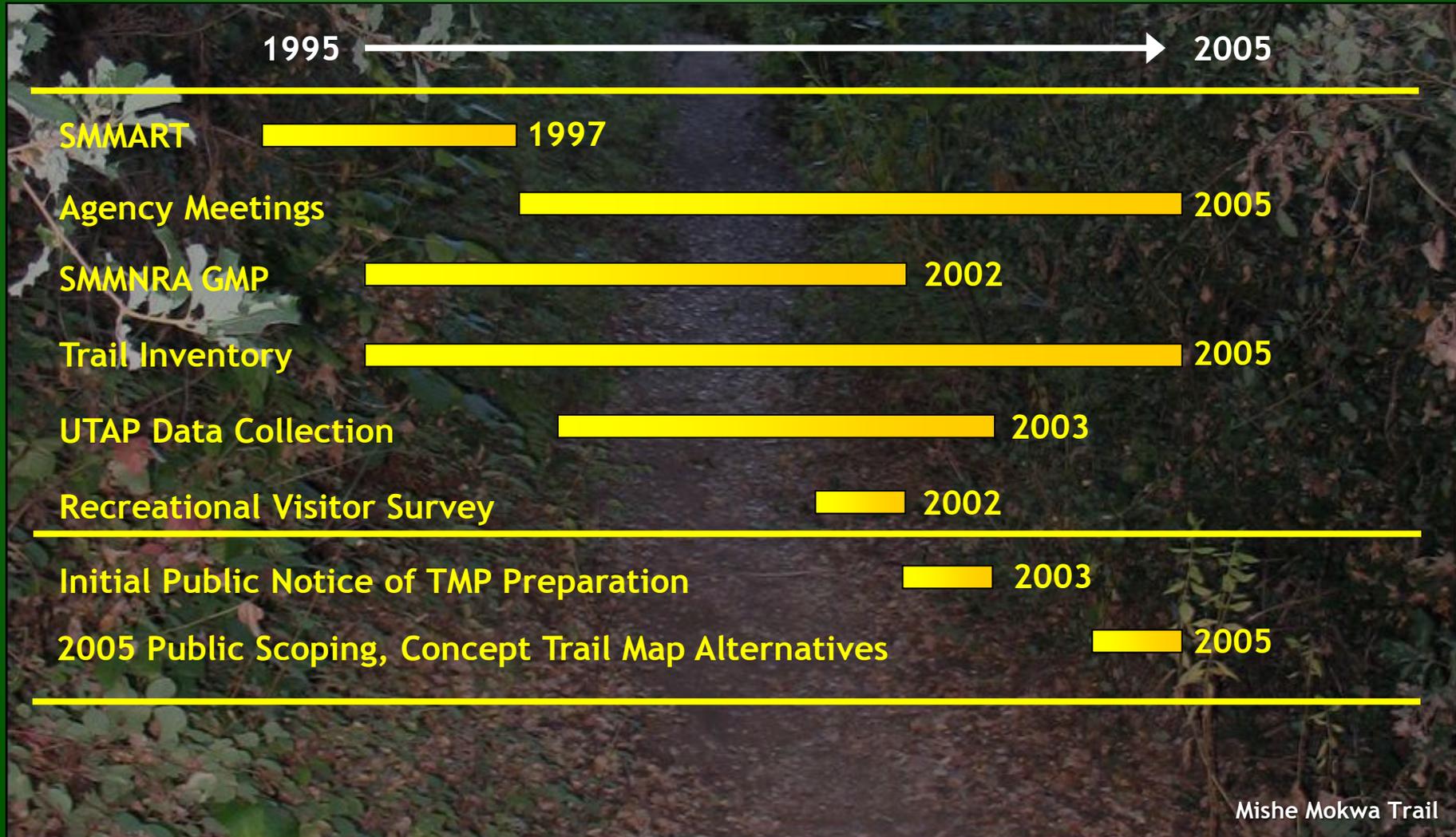
Trail Signage

Implement Joint Agency Trail Rules Signage
Strive for Uniform Appearance (Design, Materials)

Cheeseboro Canyon, S. Matsuda

* Recreation Routes refer to all types of facilities used for recreational use, including trails constructed as trails, dirt utility/fire service roads, and paved roads. Although the "Trail" Plan encompasses all the different facilities as "trails," it should be understood that trails, dirt roads, and paved roads have different management needs. Dirt and paved roads may be encumbered with and managed by non-park easement holders.

TMP – When: Past Trail Planning Summary



2. 2005 Scoping – Conceptual Trail Maps

Trends

Alternative 1

- Some new trail construction, slightly increase multiple use.
- Trail network development would be based on existing trail plans and agency management policies.

Alternative 2

- Less trail network expansion, limited use.
- Less new construction, more closures of unsustainable trails, less designation of new trails for multiple use

Alternative 3

- More trail network expansion, greater access
- More new trail construction and more designation of trails for multiple use

- Existing official trail network & use designation remained mostly unchanged among all alternatives.

- All TMP alternatives proposed to increase the mileage of public recreational opportunities while improving environmental sustainability.

- Concept Alternatives 1 and 3 suggested re-designation to multiple use of the Backbone Trail, except in Boney Wilderness.

- Concept Alternatives 1 and 3 featured a multiple-use Conejo Peak Trail to bypass Boney Mountain Wilderness.

- Backbone Trail backcountry camps were proposed in Alt's 1 and 3.

TMP 2005 Scoping Comments - Visitor Experience

Sense of Wilderness

Desire for tranquil experience and to maintain the Santa Monica Mountains as a quasi-wilderness experience to urban dwellers.

Fairness

Provide adequate opportunities for all users who pay taxes and volunteer their time maintaining and patrolling trails.

Safety

Issues with startling, speed, near-misses, and tension on shared use trails.

TMP 2005 Scoping Comments - Facilities & Alternative Suggestions

Suggestions for Alternatives

- Keep bikes on fire roads and wide trails.
- Keep some nature/family trails.
- Don't build all new trails for shared use.
- Allow bikes on more trails to disperse use.
- Apply alternate use designation strategies.
- Open full Backbone Trail to mountain biking.
- Keep Backbone Trail sections closed to mountain biking.
- Construct mountain biking bypass around Boney Wilderness.
- Open more unmaintained/unofficial trails to public use.

Trails

- Over 130 trails were mentioned.
- Open/close trails to mountain biking.
- Build new trails, close others.
- Correct errors on maps.

Trailheads

- Install restrooms.
- Install gates for security.
- Build more trailheads.
- Provide better directions.
- Provide more equestrian parking.

Backbone Trail Backcountry Camps

- Provide adequate equestrian camping facilities.
- Include vision for camps along the proposed Coastal Slope Trail.

3. Next Steps:

Environmental Review

- Public Scoping Wrap-up
- EIS/EIR Preparation

NEPA and CEQA



1969 Santa Barbara Oil Spill



Everglades National Park

National Environmental Policy Act of 1969

California Environmental Quality Act 1970

Both Laws:

- ▶ Encourage harmony between man and his environment.
- ▶ Promote efforts to prevent or eliminate damage to environment and provide a clean environment for people.

NEPA and CEQA – Purpose

National Environmental Policy Act
(NEPA) Federal Law

NEPA Regulations 40 CFR §1500.1

- Inform decision-making.
- Reduce or avoid damage to environment.
- Use alternatives to identify ways to reduce environmental impacts.
- Restore and enhance public health and welfare.
- Disclose actions to the public.

California Environmental Quality Act
(CEQA) State Law

CEQA Guidelines §15002(a)

- Inform decision-making.
- Prevent significant damage to environment.
- Use alternatives and mitigation measures to prevent significant unavoidable impacts.
- Disclose actions to the public.

A NEPA/CEQA Joint Document

Environmental Impact Statement

EIS / EIR

Environmental Impact Report

NEPA and CEQA – Public Scoping Wrap-up

Finishing up what was begun in 2005...

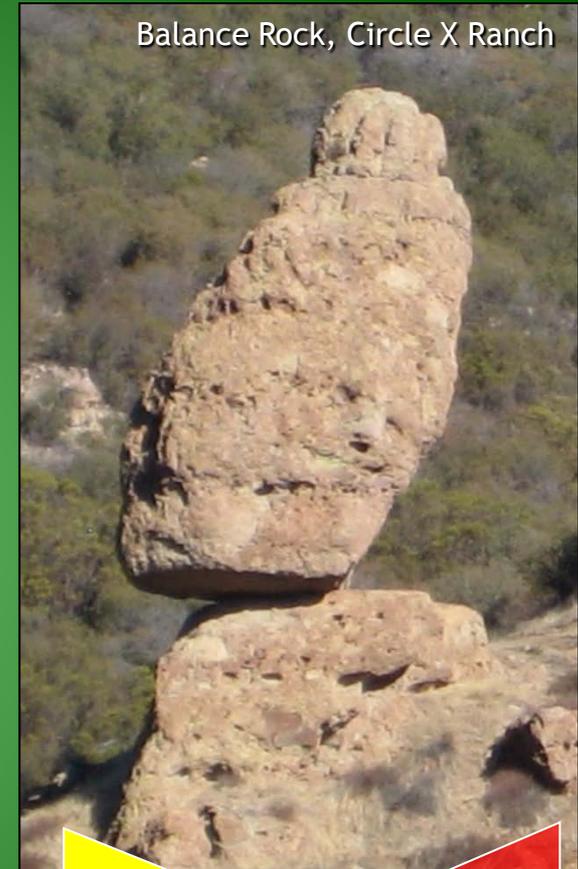
Notice of Intent (NOI) / Notice of Preparation (NOP)
to prepare an EIS / of an EIR

NEPA Regulations §1508.2 CEQA Guidelines §15082(a):

- Solicit comments on the scope and content of the EIR
- Identify proposed action and possible alternatives

Comments should identify:

- Environmental issues or concerns warranting analysis
- Reasonable range alternatives & mitigation measures
- Other issues related to the content of the EIS/EIR.



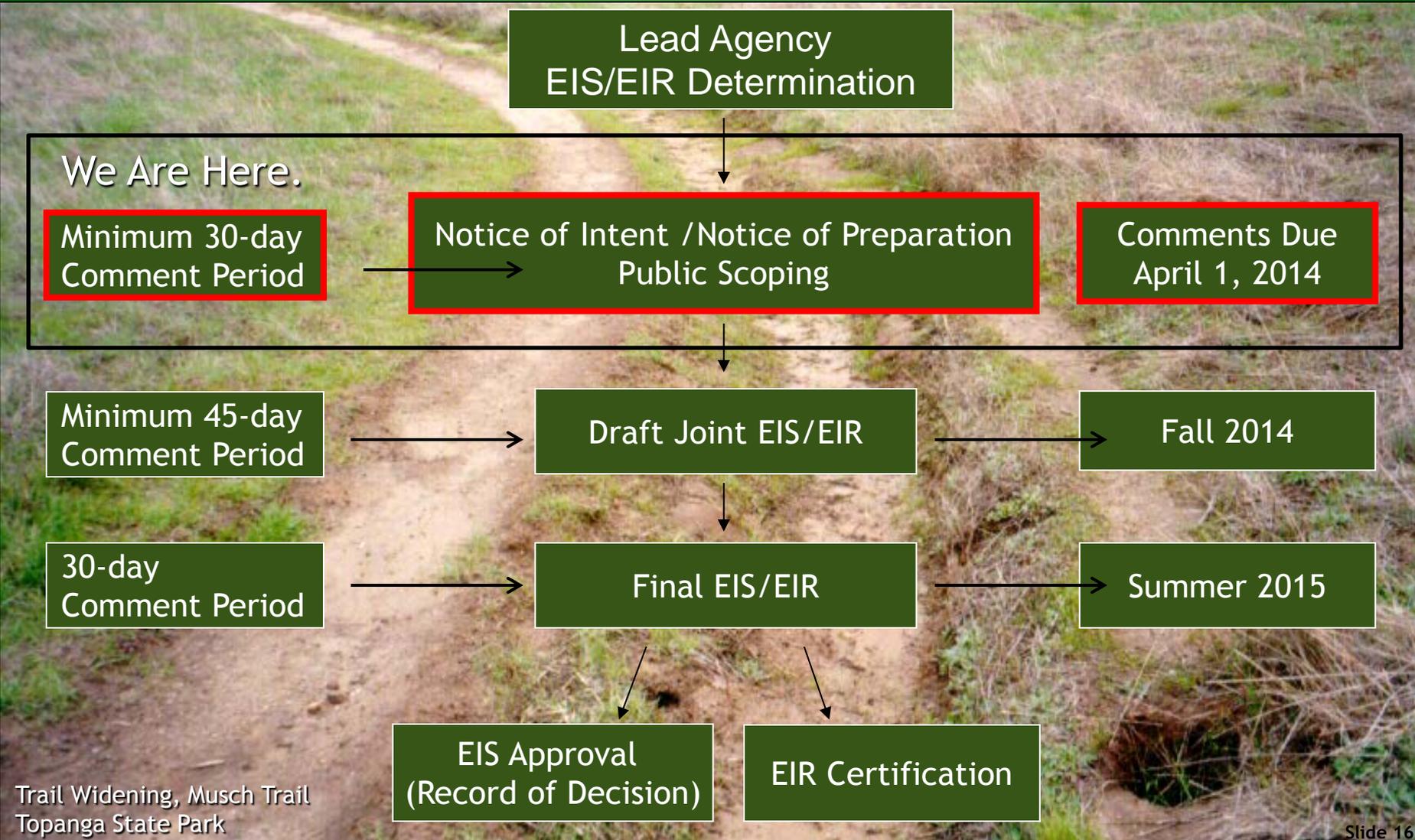
General Contents of an EIS/EIR

- Aesthetics/Visual Resources
- Agricultural Resources
- Air Quality
- Biological Resources
- Climate Change
- Cultural Resources
- Geology & Soils
- Public Health and Safety
- Water Resources
- Land Use & Planning
- Noise
- Public Services/Utilities
- Transportation and Circulation
- Socioeconomics & Env'tal Justice
- Visitor Experience
- Operations and Management Resources
- Cumulative Impacts
- Alternatives



Gold-eye Lichen, Point Mugu State Park

NEPA and CEQA – Joint TMP EIS/EIR Preparation Timeline



More Information

View previous trail planning reports, the 2002 Visitor Survey, and the 2005 scoping conceptual trail maps and comment summaries at:

<http://www.nps.gov/samo/parkmgmt/tmp-index.htm>

How Submit Comments

- Submit comments here at meeting. Place comments in yellow & white box.
- Submit comments after the meeting.
 1. Submit comments Online through National Park Service planning website portal:
<http://parkplanning.nps.gov>
 2. Mail comments to:
Trail Management Plan
National Park Service
401 W. Hillcrest Dr.
Thousand Oaks, CA 91360
 3. Fax comments to:
Trail Management Plan
(805)370-1850

**COMMENTS DUE:
April 1, 2014**